

Message Text

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USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

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TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: MAZE RIOT INFECTIOUS

REF: (A) DEPARTMENT 227768

(B) BELFAST 155

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AFTERMATH MAZE LONG KESH PRISON RIOT WAS WAVE DEMONSTRATIONS AND VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT PROVINCE. THERE ALMOST COMPLETE BREAKDOWN TRANSPORTATION LONDONDERRY CONTINUING OCT. 17 AND DOWNTOWN BELFAST TRAFFIC IN CHAOS DURING EVENING RUSH-HOUR OCT. 16 AS SEVERAL HUNDRED REPUBLICAN DEMONSTRATORS CLASHED WITH TROOPS AND POLICE WHO PREVENTED THEM FROM REACHING CITY HALL AREA. PORTION MAGILLIGAN PRISON COUNTY LONDONDERRY BURNED IN CONJUNCTION APPARENT MASS ATTEMPT AT ESCAPE AND CRUMLIN ROAD PRISON BELFAST DISRUPTED. GOVERNOR ARMAGH WOMENS PRISON AND FOUR EMPLOYEES SEIZED AS HOSTAGES BY PRISONERS ALLEGEDLY SEEKING INFORMATION ON SITUATION LONG KESH BUT HOSTAGES RELEASED UNHARMED EARLY MORNING OCT. 17. OCT. 16 BELFAST DOCKERS WALKED OUT IN PROTESTS OF SYMPATHY WITH LONG KESH PRISONERS. THERE SEVEN INDIVIDUALS WOUNDED SHOOTING INCIDENTS, FOUR OF WHICH APPEAR BE INDISCRIMINATE ATTACKS.

2. MOTIVATION FOR OUTSIDE EVENTS MIXED WITH RELATIVES OF PRISONERS GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT WELFARE IN ABSENCE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION BLACKOUT, WITH OPPONENTS INTERNMENT
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GRASPING ISSUE AND WITH TROUBLE MAKERS WHO DELIGHT IN ANY

OPPORTUNITY SPREAD DISRUPTION. SECRETARY OF STATE REES MADE STATEMENT RADIO AND TELEVISION 1800 OCT. 16 CITING 9 PRISONERS HOSPITALIZED AND A MUCH GREATER NUMBER OF GUARDS AND TROOPS INJURED.

3. MOTIVATION ORIGINAL MAZE RIOT STILL OBSCURE. SINN FEIN VP MAIRE DRUMM PROFESSED BELIEF TRIGGER WAS TROOP BRUTALITY TO WHICH PRISONERS RESPONDED BY CARRYING OUT THREAT TO BURN DOWN MAZE (REFTEL C). GOVERNMENT NEWS RELEASES AND SECSTATE REES STATEMENT HAVE TROOPS ENTERING PRISON INITIALLY SOME SIX HOURS AFTER BEGINNING RIOT IN WHICH FOUR CIVILIAN PRISON GUARDS INJURED, ONE QUITE SERIOUSLY (REFTEL B). LONG KESH RIOT CLEARLY SOLO EFFORT CONVICTED REPUBLICAN PRISONERS. LOYALIST SPOKESMAN UNANIMOUS THAT THE SOME 50 LOYALIST PRISONERS DID NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE.

4. NO RPT NO AMCIT REPORTED INJURED. REPEATED ATTEMPTS CONGEN OBTAIN INFORMATION ONE AMCIT PRISONER LONG KESH GERALD JOSPEHY BRADY SUCCEEDED EARLY OCT. 17. INFORMATION FROM PRISON AUTHORITIES IS THAT BRADY WALKING AROUND IN COMPOUND APPARENTLY IN GOOD SPIRITS AND UNHARMED. HE HAS NOT RPT NOT REQUESTED TREATMENT FOR ANY INJURY. USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY REPORTS NO RPT NO PERSONNEL SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY SITUATION THAT CITY.

5. IN GENERAL, CASUALTY FIGURES BELIEVED GREATLY EXCEED OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION. VOLUME AMBULANCE AND HELICOPTER SHUTTLE BETWEEN LONG KESH AND TWO HOSPITALS OCT. 16 SUBSTANTIATES BELIEF. ONE VISITOR LONG KESH OCT. 16 DESCRIBED INJURIES TO 34 INMATES ONLY A FEW OF WHOM REQUIRED HOSPITALIZATION HOWEVER.

6. OPPONENTS INTERNMENT NOW HAVE HIGHLY DRAMATIC SITUATION AROUND WHICH EFFORTS CAN BE FOCUSED. HOWEVER UNLESS TROOP BRUTALITY CAN BE CLEARLY ESTABLISHED, PRISONER-INSPIRED RIOT HARDLY LIKELY SIGNIFICANTLY FURTHER ANTI-INTERNMENT CAUSE. SPICER

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